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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		
TO: WH/SA/C/RR		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS		
<p>Re: <u>Manolo Ray</u></p> <p>Des, This is memo prepared by ⁰³ John Sherwood following his talk with Ernesto Betancourt, who is the Chief of the Admin. Section of the Economic Division of the OAS. ⁰⁵ Betancourt was one of the ⁰⁸ ELL ⁰⁵ 29 representatives in Washington.</p>		
FROM: C/WH/SA/EDE		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

FORM NO 241

REPLACES FORM 241 WHICH MAY BE USED

GPO 1967-O-386415

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16 March 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Contact Report, Meeting with AMSMILE-1

DATE : 11 March 1964, 1830-2100 hours

PLACE : Duke Zeibert's Restaurant

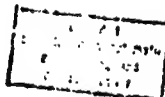
PRESENT Subject and [Di Uabido] as Ercltheim

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1. I scheduled this meeting for the sole purpose of continuing my quiet development of Subject begun in November 1963. The enterprise was undertaken on a non-specific basis just to keep in touch with Subject because of his relatively pre-eminent position in the exile community. Before the instant meeting I had had brief discussions with Bolton and Anderson, obtaining their concurrence with my idea that Subject could someday be a valuable source of insights into the operations level of OAS. I had actually intended at this meeting to concentrate on Subject's function in the OAS but found that the discussion directed itself almost exclusively to the affairs of AMBANG-1. This fact was the direct and accidental result of my opening gambit to the effect of "What's new?" in answer to which Subject complained that since our last meeting in January, Latin America seemed to be on the way to hell in a handcart and about the only two people who seemed to be doing anything about it were AMBANG and former Venezuelan president Betancourt. I shan't attempt to reproduce the two hours of general conversation but do feel that the importance of AMBANG coupled with the nature of Subject's views on him warrant a statement of what these views are.

2. Subject has known AMBANG for several years and has admired him through all the various seasons of their relationship. Subject was first impressed with AMBANG's organizing talents at the time AMBANG took over responsibility for organizing the anti-Batista Havana underground from Faustino Perea. AMBANG-1's talents as an engineer, according to Subject, have impressed nearly everyone who is

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AMBANG/1

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aware of them. These two factors, the organizing talent and the demonstrable engineering skill are apparently wedded to a firm, judicious personality with the result that AMBANG is an effective and appealing person to Cuban exiles of various stripe. Throughout the evening Subject reiterated his conviction that of all exile leaders who have emerged since the take-over of Cuba by Castro, AMBANG alone has the ability and the profile to put together and lead a successful resistance enterprise.

3. Subject stressed repeatedly his conviction that whoever is to attempt to cause a serious crack in the ever-thickening ring of defenses on the island must have the kind of name which will conjure a positive image in the imagination of the average Cuban. This person must mean something, not only in terms of past affiliations and present military strength but in terms of the immediate and not so immediate future, to those persons who, though not committed to the Castro revolution, have either benefitted slightly or are bound to it by virtue of their jobs. Subject is certain these persons would not consider AMBANG to be a menace.

4. Subject claimed that he is not working with or for AMBANG and asserted that he had not conversed or corresponded with him for over half a year. If indeed Subject was leading me on, attempting to sell AMBANG to me, he did so with a subtlety to which I am definitely not accustomed. He expressed on more than one occasion a fear that AMBANG might, in his zeal to get something moving, commit himself to such tight timing that he would be forced to undertake action at a moment which was actually disadvantageous to himself. He stressed that even AMBANG's capital on the island is limited and that whatever movement is made to cash in on this capital must be calculated to have the greatest possible effect.

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[Sidney P. Di Ubaldo]

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